

Appln. No.: 10/615,417

Amendment dated August 24, 2005

Non-Final Office Action dated Aug. 19, 2005

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Amend paragraph [0068] in the publication, beginning at page 16, line 10 of the specification as filed, to read as follows:

[0068] As shown in the embodiment of FIGS. 4-12, fixation element 56 is a screw attached to bearing element ~~52~~ 54 via a hole formed in bearing element 52 and is inserted into a pedicle portion 72 of vertebra 70. Other possible fixation elements include stems, corkscrews, wire, staples, adhesives, bone cements, and other materials known in the prosthetic arts. Fixation element 56 can also be inserted into the vertebral body in addition to or in place of the pedicle.

*[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]*